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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4005

COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON
RULES

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
BUDGET

May 2, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy:

Congratulations on uniting our party behind the Limit, Save, Grow Act. This bill is a responsible debt ceiling proposal that puts sensible cuts in place to reduce our out-of-control federal spending, while honoring the commitments made by conservatives to keep our national defense, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid intact. As you know, we do not have time to spare when it comes to both restoring fiscal sanity to Washington and meeting our debt obligations.

We are only a few short weeks away from the estimated “X-date” of June 1, 2023, to raise the debt ceiling before risking dire consequences for our nation. It is remarkable that only moments before Secretary Yellen announced this date did President Biden finally agree to meet with congressional leadership on this critical issue. However, the President’s invitation is for May 9th, a full week from now. Such a delay is inexcusable.

Therefore, I urge you to exhaust every avenue available to bring President Biden into negotiations immediately, not a week from now. There should be meaningful consequences for the President’s decision to delay negotiations on a responsible debt ceiling increase that finally puts us on a sustainable path to financial responsibility.

It should be the House of Representatives’ official position that until President Biden comes to the negotiating table and a suitable agreement is reached, that additional rescissions and cost-saving measures will be added on a daily basis to the House’s proposal for spending cuts as part of this debt ceiling increase.

To begin, we should rescind \$500 million in funding earmarked by Maryland Democrats in FY 2023 for construction of the new FBI building. This project is overfunded, over ten years behind schedule, and by the Administration’s own estimates, will cost taxpayers \$3.5 billion to complete. Reclaiming this unspent funding should be in addition to rejecting President Biden’s additional request of \$233 million dollars through discretionary appropriations for the project in the upcoming fiscal year.

While defaulting on our debt obligations is **not** an option, neither is sacrificing our economic security. Contrary to President Biden's passiveness towards a looming recession, we do not have any time to waste. House Republicans have done our part, but Congress must do more if the President's reckless behavior continues. Now is the time to show this Administration we mean business, and that we will continue to fight for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ralph Norman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" and last name "Norman" clearly distinguishable.

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress